# Annual Report of the Committee on Sailors & Soldiers

Since the presentation of their last Annual Report but few facts strictly belonging to the advancement of our cause during the period under consideration have come to the knowledge of your Committe Enough however to dispel every lingering dont as to the practicability of greatly benefiting the Sailor and the Soldier. The single consideration that public sentiment is fast changing in reference to them — that the Clergy Fathers of the Community are enlisted in their behalf and that larger views and more energetic measures are adopted for their moral, intellectual, & physical improvement is surely sufficient to convince the most sceptical to animate and encourage every individual who loves the souls of men. Such we rejoice to learn and would record it with sincere gratitude to the Author of all good is the present general aspect of our cause —

The importance of Seamen as a portion of the great family of man, the relation which he sustains as the representative of the nation to which he belongs, and the desirableness of rendering him a blessing when his influence is now the most injurious has in a great measure been overlooked — Until a very few years to smile at his characteristic dialect and behaviour to shudder at his reckless profanity and to despair of ever improving his condition was the com-

and extent of all that was felt and done for him. Hitherto he has been acquainted only with storms, hunger, toil, danger, neglect, abuse, and fraud while the kindlier feelings of sympathy, tenderness and love of his soul have found place only in the bosoms of the universally benevolent. But the Providence and the Grace of God have triumphed over the opposition of Enemies and the indifference of friends. The Bible is now placed within the reach of almost every ships crew along our coast. Religious Tracts find their way into the hands and frequently the hearts of the listless mariners, and in most of the important ports "the Bethel Flag every Sabbath waves over the Sanctuary inviting them to listen to

— "That voice now heard afar
Oer the dark, rolling sea,
That whispers to the hardy tar
Sailor, there's hope for thee."

We must now notice more particularly the plans and operations of the Am. Seamen's Friend Soc'y its Auxiliaries and sister institutions for the improvement of Seamen.

The original design of the Am. Seamens Friend Soc'y was one of expansive benevolence It was intended to bind in one every association in the land for the advantage of Seamen and from one grand center of operations diffusing its streams of love to any

direction. Though no jurisdiction is claimed over local institutions, yet a fostering hand is extended to those which are weak and all are regarded as parts of a common system. During the past year however nearly all the Soc'y's funds have been expended in foreign lands. A brief sketch of these Efforts is all our limits will allow us to give—

Cantow

This is the oldest establishment of the Soc'y in foreign lands. The chaplain at this port has steadily pursued his labours through the year. A wide field of usefulness is now open before him. At least 200 large ships reckoning all nations are at that port every year and the number is constantly increasing. American vessels that have anchored at Wampoa during the season 75. On board 22 of these ships public worship has been held on the Sabbath during the year; and in some of them for several Sabbaths in succession— During the same time about 90 British vessels and from 20 to 25 of other nations. Not less than 4000 seamen, and some say as many as 6000 are annually thronging the ports of Cantow; the greater part of whom speak the English language and are in a situation to receive benefit from the labours of a devoted Chaplain. And not they only; for a population of many thousands of Chinese sailors and boatmen are swarming the harbor, who are sunk in all the pollutions of heathenism! and as a chaplain became acquainted with their language his sphere of usefulness would widen to an almost boundless extent. A plan has been devised for a floating Chapel to be moored at the Ship Anchorage a part of which to be used as an Hospital

for sick seamen where the healing medicines may be applied to the soul and body of many a poor mariner Nothing but the narrow, blinded policy of the Chinese government in prohibiting an anchorage upon this Ark of hope and happiness prevents the consummation of a plan so desirable. The last accounts were dated July 14th 1835 Nothing very remarkable had occured — Sabbeth worship continued on board the Ships Anchored at Wampoa.

Havre

Rev David DeForest Esq has labored at this port as Chaplain since Oct last. The seamens congregation is not large but increasing. Efforts are making to procure a suitable place of worship and we doubt not from the urgent necessity of the case that they will soon succeed. The work of Bible distribution goes on pleasingly under the auspices of the Am. Bible Soc. The Chaplain is intimately acquainted with the French language and frequently encounters the Romish priest in his tours for distribution among French sailors and Emigrants

Honolulu.

In the Sandwich Islands is the third port where the gospel has been preached to sailors Constantly for three years. This we regard as one of the most important stations in the world. A chapel was opened in Nov 1833 Reading rooms were fitted up in March following. The Rev. Mr Diell continues his useful and very acceptable labors there Some interesting Cases of Conversion have already been the result of his labours. One of which deserves special notice. He was a native of Virginia who left his vessel in 1805 and has resided at the Islands ever since

He had not attended a religious Meeting in 34 years
But see the wonderful Providence of God! — That gospel
which he had neglected and despised for more than 30
years was sent to him from this land of Christian
privileges and urged upon his notice by a faithful
Seamens Chaplain. His stout heart sunk within him
the tears of penitence streamed from his eyes and at
the last accounts gave good evidence of being a new
Creature in Christ Jesus — Within a few months two or
three Seamen have been inquiring after the way of sal
vation — One was an officer of a Vessel and was a very in-
teresting young man On leaving port he gave pleasing evidence
that he had found a Saviour precious and that he would
adorn the Gospel of God his Saviour in the midst of his
wicked Companions by whom he is surrounded
The Am Bib. Soc. have furnished the Chaplain with a sup-
ply of Bibles for the Seamen here — He at first gave them on
the spot to the Sailors who called for them — but has adop
ted a different plan from the painful fact that many
to whom they were given were driven by their appetite to sell
even their Bible for Rum — and of Course there were Men in
the place who stood ready to buy a Sailors Bible for rum
and thus send him away to sea deprived of that
Monitor which would speak to him in a moment of
sober reflection with a voice of thunder. "My son if Sinners
entice thee Consent thou not." He refuses no application
but writes the name of applicant on the Cover and entrusts
it to the Care of the Master or some Officer until they get
to sea when it is given to him. Seamen frequently call at

thereof a desire to express their gratitude for the gift of a Bible. In many of the Whale Ships there is a great dearth of books of all kinds and as the men have much leisure upon their hands at different periods of the voyage gives them a Bible and it will be seen at last as we may hope that Gods word has not been sent forth in vain.

When more than 150 whale ships besides numerous Merchant vessels. Averaging 30 seamen each are annually touching at the Sandwich Islands who can estimate the amount of good that may be done by the instrumentality of the Seamens Chaplain. And we rejoice that some few of the 4000 seamen who hear his voice have yielded themselves to Christ.

Marseilles.

This port from its location is one of considerable importance. Rev Charles Rockwell was engaged to proceed there as Chaplain, but he received an appointment as Chaplain on board the U. S. Ship Potomac — & has accepted it. So that Marseilles is still without a Chaplain —

Smyrna

The number of seamen who understand the English language in this port is not large. The Rev has engaged the labours of the Rev. Josial Brewer Missionary to Smyrna now on his way to that place

Mobile Bay

Is another port at which a Chaplain has recently been stationed. The Rev Albert Williams labours as Ship Cain sometimes preaching to sailors and boatmen

at the city and at other times on shipboard in the Bay. A local Soc'y has just been formed by the inhabitants of Mobile and we may look for much good in behalf of the sailors there.

Havana

No permanent Chaplain has yet been located here but the port has been explored and incipient measures are taking to supply the call for bethel operations there. We may form some idea of the importance of the station from the fact that at least 10,000 seamen are found in the Am. vessels at Havana every year. About one thousand of whom including Am. Residents are constantly in port. These are all totally without religious instruction, and surrounded by temptations to almost every vice. The prospects of usefulness to a chaplain here ~~would be~~ are very great. The harbor is such that the shipping occupies comparatively a small space and the public regulation requiring all seamen to remain on ship board it would be no difficult task to collect a congregation on the deck of any ship. There are however difficulties connected with the Government which is connected with the Romish Church. Permission to hoist the Bethel flag would not easily be obtained. But these obstacles must ultimately be surmounted and these difficulties must fade away before the progress of light and truth.

## New Orleans

Some Effort have been made in the Bethel Cause in New Orleans Some yars since a Mariners Church was commenced and after completing the first Story further Operations were suspended for want of funds. In the year 1834 new interest was awakend. The directors resolved to raise 10.000 dollars to complete the building Subscription books were Opened and proposals were made for loans payable within ten years which with the rents of part already in use would enable them soon to complete the Church — But these plans have all failed the walls are crumbling to dust — and a new Orleans the great mart of the west with its 120 ships. 100 brigs & 60 schooners in port has no Mariners Church no seamens Chaplain and no institution of a religious kind among her vast multitudes of seamen By a recent arrangement of the Cs. shipping is removed from the old walls of the seamens Chapel — it really seems very desirable that new measures should now be taken for that great and wicked City. A Chaplain there would need the graces and qualifications of 70 disciples — "Wise as serpents harmless as doves" — A distinguished ship Master writes "That he has little hopes of seeing any permanent good done to or for the Sailors so long as the custom of paying advance wages continues. He is convinced that this the root of the evil

several writers of ours for the Sailors Magazine seemed to this state as though they were not quite sure that their premises were correct but he could assure them, after more than thirty years experience that the custom lies at the foundation of all the dissipation and debauchery in port. And suggests that Congress should be solicited to legislate on the subject. These views, having a bearing on all our other ports as well as New Orleans and they coincide with we believe nearly all the experienced ship Masters

Such a survey of the labours of the Am. Sea. Soc'y.

If we survey our half regular land from Georgia to Maine we shall find 19 ports of more or less importance where Societies have been organized for the improvement of Seamen In ten of these public worship is regularly attended in Portland Salem Boston New Bedford Mystic Bridge New York Phil.a Baltimore Charleston and Savannah In Eastport Bath. and New Ark. Societies have recently been formed and the Chaplains labours performed by the resident Clergymen gratuitously. We must now over notice some of these more particularly

Boston has the honor of originating the first Soc'y ever formed in America for the peculiar & spiritual advantage of such as go down to the sea. As early as May 1812 two years before the similar Movement in London, a Soc'y of Gentlemen was formed in Boston Called the Boston Soc for the religious and moral improvement of Seamen. Since that time spirited and unceasing efforts have been made And many a poor Sailor will rise from his "Coral bed" to Call the benevolent individuals who blessed — The Chapl

is a noble building and the flag staff with its streamers
Capitals can be seen a large distance from fort Hill
which is its site, Seamen almost universally listen
with earnest and solemn attention to the word of Sal-
vation Often may be seen the tear rolling rolling
down the weather-beaten cheek of the tailor at the
simple presentation of gospel truths For propriety
of conduct and fixedness of attention while in the
house of God they are not excelled by any other
class of men. Religious meetings are held in Boston
at the Sailors boarding houses. the exercises are
singing exhortation and prayer The meetings
are well attended and very interesting There is a
warmth and holy fervor in the pious Sailors ex-
hortations and prayers which stirs up the feel-
ings of the whole soul. And the man who can
listen with indifference to the pious tar. while he
recounts the Saviours matchless love and exhorts
his shipmates to break of their sins by righteousness
must not only be destitute of piety. but of the common
feelings of humanity. It is believed that at no
period since the erection of the mariners Chh-
has there been so much religious feeling among
Seamen as at the present time. Frequently on
at B.
On leaving port they send a request that they may
be remembered in the prayers of the people of God
The Monthly concert is also attended. They have some board
ing houses without ardent Spirit - A library. A Savings

Bank that ords fair to be a blessing Over 530 have deposited portions of their earnings to the Amt of $ 80,000
Of the 100,000 sailors of our Country. 25,000 visit and reside in the port of Boston every year And with the fact before the minds who does not rejoice that so much has been done and is doing for the benefit of those who trust themselves to the uncertain seas
New Bedford And the Whale fishery

The port of New Bedford Mass has become a place of great interest on account of its being connected with the Whaling Business. One hundred and fifty ~~fifty~~ five vessels are fitted out here for the Pacific Ocean and 45 more clear from the port making 200 whaling ships in the port at their successive seasons - This may perhaps be the most convenient place to give a general sketch of the whaling business - It has got to be a concern of vast importance to the wealth morals and general interests of the nation.
According to a statement taken from the Custom House at N. Bedford as we have before stated the No. of ships clearing from that Port Amounted 200
The No. of these which are Temperance Ships is 180
But besides the 200 from New Bedford Nantucket has 70 Falmouth 8 - Edgartown 7. Boston 17 New Port 9 New London 29 - Sag harbour 24. Hudson 11 New York 6 and 84 of smaller ports which we cannot name making a total of 468 vessels - Those which clear from N Bedford average 25 men each. taking this as the

as the averaged number for all we shall have
11,700. men in the whaling business— Ships are gone
from one to four seasons not many over 3 years
Few of them strictly observe the Sabbath Most of
them sail as temperance ships— Few of the Com-
manders, officers are well educated men. Some go
for a voyage or two who from various causes
are led to enter this service. But a small no.
of the Capts. officers and sailors are pious but
their number is increasing. Some who are not
pious countenance efforts for promoting mo-
rality. Many get bad Examples and are utterly
opposed to any thing like religion when they get
abroad— Several Capts and others have recently
professed Christ in New Bedford. There is a
great willingness to receive books and many
applications for them. Pious sailors have a
great and happy influence if they are firm and
Exemplary. The crews in the whaleships are one third
foreigners. ¼ of the rest belong in the vicinity of N.B.
and the rest from all parts of our country. What a
mixt multitude! the great proportion of them
vicious characters. A thousand young men every
year come to New Bedford and many of them poor
some from good families to go to various
Oceans Nearly one quarter of the fore mast hands

do not return in the ships in which they go out.
Several cases of mutiny and dissatisfaction have
been communicated recently from the Sandwich Islands.
Many evils are at present connected with this
business a reform is ardently desired and from
the various signs of the times in reference
to it many have hope that it will ere long
be a place of safety for those who engage in it.
When the principles of total abstinence shall
universally prevail, when the sabbath shall
be observed far off in the whaling regions. When
the bible and pious Commanders and Chaplains
shall be found on board these ships and in their
ports many will be urged into this business
from far other motives than the desire of gain.
We rejoice that many distinguished good men
are strong in the cause and surely 11700 men
whose hearts are easily reached in the hours of leisure
and recreation both by religious books and personal conversation afford a field more rich and
promising than can be found in almost any other
part of the globe — Congress is about sending an exploring
dition to the South Pacific. and much may thus be done
to prevent shipwrecks and disasters by charting the
dangerous parts which are at present unknown.
Many whalers are every year injured and wrecked there.

N.Y. Marine Bible Society

Is a very important & useful auxiliary in the great plan of benefitting Seamen. It was established in Feb. A.D. 1817. During the last year it has expended about 1,700$ for the benefit of Seamen. They have a permanent Agent whose business it is to visit Seamen to converse with them and supply their spiritual wants with the bread of Life. The journal of the agent exhibits many deeply interesting details of his success in this long neglected department of Christian benevolence. A single extract will no doubt be interesting. "A Seaman named Wm Smith belonging to the ship Duncan sailed from this port to Antwerp and was wrecked in the English channel. In reply to the question have you a Bible answered as follows. I have a Bible which was presented to me by about 5 years ago by the Rev. Nor Taylor of Boston which I prize very highly. It was all I saved from the wreck. The brig having struck the rocks gave three thumps and went to pieces. Death stared us in the face. I resolved to trust in God. Instantly I seized the precious treasure and with a handkerchief bound it to my heart and with a sturdy sail Boom plunged into the foaming billows and providentially was washed ashore

before life was quite extinct. The Captain filled his pockets with gold & silver, and sunk to rise no more" "he then held up the Book which still bore marks of the salt water on it" "Give the Bible to each one of the Seamen" And tho some may reject and despise, and perish yet among the 20,000 who annually visit the port of N.Y. not a few will read to the Salvation of their Souls The light of personal holiness will shine on many a deck - the banner of the cross will be nailed to many a Mast; the fire of Christian Zeal will be kindled in many a crew; and the voice of prayer and the song of praise shall ascend amid the sublimities of Ocean, and mingle with the "war of Elements".

The Marine Tem. Soc

Was instituted about 8 years since and was the precursor of those happy movements towards temperance Ships - And temperance Seamens boarding houses which afford us so much encouragment in our labors for Seamen. Nine public Meetings of the Soc have been held since the last Anniversary 427 members have been added during the past year The whole number on the Register 1647 besides the Juvinile auxiliary One hundred & ten Masters besides many not designated. 100 Mates also. about 800 Seamen. the rest Lands men Mothers Wives & Sisters of Seamen. compose the Soc

The N.Y. Insurance Companies ~~after~~ besides making a deduction of 5 pr cent. to temperance ships have published 100 000 temperance Almanacks for gratuitous distribution among the 100000 Sailors of our Country. The Seamens Friend Soc'y are about forming a Sailors temperance boarding house in N York They have already formed a library and reading room

X The Lake & Boatmen's Cause

Next demands our attention. Between Albany & Buffalo are 1.530 Grog shops (averaging one for every 4 or 5 miles on the whole line) Most of which are near the Locks. when every boat is detained long enough for Boatmen and passengers to get "their liquor" As boats are passing every few minutes and these are sold on flights immense quantities of ardent spirits are consumed. The temperance cause seems almost powerless here. The whole No of Boatmen on the Erie Canal is 10.000 They are most all working young Men of the lower Class and Even if some correct principles and habits has been formed before leaving their homes the profanity pollution intemperance and Sabbath breaking of ons Readers experience On the Erie Canal would entirely destroy them

Aside from a single line of Boats (the N.Y. & Michigan Line) and now and then a solitary Steamboat Nothing like the observance of the Sabbath is discernable. Professors of religion in many instances own boats which run on Sunday There ten Thousand boatmen at the close of the season are perambulated throughout into our towns and villages when their influence is the most disheartning to the friends of religion and their corruptions spread far and wide. Here is a field of labour far more unpromising than the one we have dwelt on but still the gospel must triumph even here - Yes and it has triumphed already in some parts of it. A boatmens chapel is now building at Albany During the late revival at Troy several individuals in the boating business were sharers in its blessings. A Bethel at Utica is still sustained and doing good. An interesting state of feeling now exists at Buffalo and a Church of 21 members has recently been formed - The northern Canals have 3000 men employed on its waters all in a similar state as those just described. A Chapel has been opened at Oswego. A movement has also been made for the Erection of a Boatmens Chapell at Pittsburg They have recently formed a Bethel society at Cincinnati

The boatmens Magazine is now published at Buffalo and is calculated to exert a very happy influence. Every Christian who expects to travel on our inland waters should if possible previously supply himself with religious tracts And he knows not but some perishing soul may be made alive in Christ Jesus. And some who have talents may greatly benefit that class of our fellow men by writing tracts Especially for them. The Am. Tract Soc. we believe are doing something for them but to what extent we are ignorant

Operations of Foreign Societies

It appears from the Report of the Secy of the British and Foreign Sailors Society that the number of Seamen and and Fishermen in Great Britain is Three Hundred Thousand Bethel operations are carried on as in the U. S. Above 12000 seamen in their appropriate Costume have attended the London Bethel being four times the number which used to attend the floating Chapel in an equal length of time 3 Sermons are preached on the Sabbath and several religious services during the week are held From twenty to forty volumes of religious books

are furnished Each ship about 3000 vols
have thus been put in circulation by the Sailors
Soc[iety] of London at the Commencement of last year
and 1100 bound vols 1500 pamphlets with four
thousand tracts had ~~ever~~ put in Circulation in the same
way. Commerce in the British Metropolis
presents a forest of Shipping on the River Thames
and the number of Sailors Constantly in the
port of London is computed at 15,000. The Ope
rations of the Chapel not reaching this multi
tude of men the Soc[iety] have established what
they call the Thames Agency - Employing
a pious Ship Master Capt Pryn called the
Thames Missionary who devotes his whole
time to visiting the Shipping holding Meeting
and distributing religious books - He has had
the assistance of twelve other agents and thus
as many as twenty religious services and spe
cially of the Sabbath are held every week -
In addition to these agents in the port of
London the Soc[iety] has expended something
for the partial support of provincial Agents
in Dublin South Shields Ramsgate and others
in Seven ports the Bethel Cause is sustained to
some extent - Some exertions have also been Made
to supply the Coast guard stations with suitable
libraries. Of these stations there are about 50.

around the Coast of Eng. Ire.d & Scot.d comprising
many thousand three hundred persons in chiefly
Men women and Children. The Soc.y contemplates
furnishing 20.000 vols to these persons. Labours
in connexion with this Soc.y have been Gra-
tuitously performed at New South Wales
Jamaica Memel. & Prussia Hamburg & Cron-
stadt. At the Chapel in London a navi-
gation class has been formed in which 30
young seamen have received gratuitous
instruction two evenings in the week.
A sat. School is also in a flourishing state
at the Chapel 700 $ were expended the
past year in this Land in domestic in
Labours The Am. Sea. Friend Soc.y is surpassed
by the British and foreign Sailors Soc.y
But not so in foreign Labours

Plans for the Future.

To furnish the Sailors with comfortable temperance
Boarding houses near the shipping having a Reading
Room and Library attached to each and by furnishing
them in every port with a comfortable home
to allure them to it and thus prevent much of
the dissipation of Sailors is now an absorbing
project of the Soc.y. Little in fact can be done
to benefit them while their Landlords as they

are called are standing ready the first moment they come in port to decoy them to their houses in the disguise of friendship. And by getting them to drink their pestiferous liquors in a few days they have all their earnings mortgaged. Says an experienced ship Master. I have known crews to go a voyage and not [illegible] in tropical climes. but as soon as the fall into the hands of their Landlords I have generally seen them drunk, I have paid them off with 30$ or 40$ and in less than a week they would be shipped again and their advance gone, It is time these boarding houses were looked into. There keepers not only defraud and plunder the poor sailors of their money and clothes but the rot and plunder their immortal souls. It is not the Sailors fault. One half of the Sailors know nothing about their money after they are once paid off until they are shipped again by their Land Lords and the drunker they can keep them the sooner they are plundered. There should some-thing be done to stop this distinction. And the plan above referred to is perhaps the most judicious. There are about 100.000 men employed in the U.S. and of these there are about 1000 pious. This would leave 99 & 9 lost to one saved. Of the 15000 Boatmen & Lake at least = 9%/10 Sailors & River Sailors scarcely not one in a Thousand are pious. Much more must be done for these perishing souls

## Soldiers

On this part of our cause we shall be necessarily brief as we have but a moment more and little to say— Our regular Army consists of 6500 men likely to be increased to 10,000. We have 53 Stations Our naval force consists of 52 Ships including all classes— 18 of which are now in Commission The whole number of Chaplains in the United States service is 9. One for every 2 vessels now in Commission. The Army at Fort Mc Henry have recently petitioned Congress to give them a Chaplain. And Mr Davis of Mass. has introduced a resolution that the Committee on ~~Naval~~ military Affairs be required to enquire into the expediency of making provision for the appointment of Chaplains in the Army of the United States— The prospect of ~~being~~ putting regular Soldiers of quality bringing the gospel to bear on their Consciences So long as the horrid Custom of War shall Continue is in the last degree disheartening— But we have the promise that the time will come when Nations shall learn war no more—